

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A brush seal segment, comprising:

a bristle arrangement having a plurality of bristles and a weld joint securing said bristles together;

a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a clamping section to frictionally engage said weld joint;

wherein said clamping section allows movement of said weld joint before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said weld joint after said plates are secured together.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 1, wherein said clamping section comprises a channel.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 2, wherein said channel has a width corresponding to a width of said weld joint and a length greater than a length of said weld joint.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 2, wherein said channel is located on at least one of said plates.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 4, wherein said channel is located on both of said plates.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 1, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A brush seal segment, comprising:

a bristle arrangement having a retention section;

a pair of plates flanking said bristle arrangement and having a channel to frictionally engage said retention section, said channel extending to an end of at least one said plates;

wherein said channel allows movement of said retention section before said plates are secured together and prevents movement of said retention section after said plates are secured together.

Claim 8. (cancelled)

Claim 9. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 8, wherein said channel has a width corresponding to a width of said retention section and a length greater than a length of said retention section.

Claim 10. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 8, wherein said channel is located on at least one of said plates.

Claim 11. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 10, wherein said channel is located on both of said plates.

Claim 12. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said brush seal segment is part of a packing ring.

Claim 14. (original) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said packing ring includes a labyrinth seal.

Claim 15. (original) A method of assembling a brush seal, comprising the steps of:

providing a pair of plates and a bristle arrangement, said bristle arrangement locatable between said plates at a plurality of positions;

selectively locating said bristle arrangement at a desired one of said positions; and

securing said plates together to retain said bristle arrangement at said desired position.

Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said securing step comprises removably securing said plates together.

Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the method adjusts a clearance of said brush seal.

Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the method adjusts a stiffness of said bristle arrangement.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a bristle ring.

Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising a step of loosening said plates to release a used bristle arrangement, said loosening step occur prior to said locating and securing steps, and wherein said locating and securing steps utilize a replacement bristle arrangement.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 2, wherein said channel extends to an end of at least one of said plates.

Claim 22. (currently amended) The brush seal segment of claim 21, wherein said channel has uniform depth.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said channel has uniform depth.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The brush seal segment of claim 7, wherein said bristle arrangement comprises a plurality of bristles and a weld joint securing said bristles together, and said weld joint is said retention section.